

Remarks/Arguments

This application has been carefully considered in connection with the Examiner's Action. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

I. Status of the Case

Prior to this Amendment, Claims 1-53, 55-58 and 68-69 had previously been canceled, thereby leaving Claims 54, 59-67 and 70-81 pending before the Examiner. By this Amendment, the Applicants hereby cancel Claims 54, 59-67, 70, 72 and 75-81 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new Claims 82-100. Thus, Claims 71, 73-74 and 82-100 are now pending before the Examiner.

II. Rejections Applied in the Final Office Action dated May 25, 2006

In the Final Office Action dated May 25, 2006, Claims 54, 59-67 and 70-81 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nabavi (GB 2325548) in view of Vaios (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,752). In response, the Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 54, 59-67 and 70-81 and instead submit that Claims 71 and 73-74, as above amended, as well as newly added Claims 82-100, are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 54, 59-67 and 70-81 and the allowance of Claims 71, 73-74 and 82-100, as above amended.

III. Teachings of the Cited Art

Nabavi discloses a security alarm system which includes a security alarm system controller 1 located at a premises, a central computer 10 and a remote web browser 9. Generally, Nabavi is directed to the accessing of the alarm controller 1 using the remote web browser 9. In support thereof, it is noted that lines 7-11 of the Abstract of Nabavi states that "[t]he computer network server means is operable to pass data relating to the status of the alarm system to the network user 9

and to re-configure the alarm system controller on the basis of instructions from the network user 9.”

Vaois discloses a multi-access remote security system in which one or more of plural end users located at respective ones of plural remote locations can establish a connection with a security surveillance area. Importantly, Vaois omits the use of a central computer 9—an important feature of certain embodiments of Applicants’ invention. Furthermore, like Nabavi, Vaois is directed to a security system configured such that a remotely located individual is capable of accessing selected monitoring devices, for example, a video camera 10, using a remote computer system 16 to communicate with a local computer-implemented security system. Vaois further discloses that a remote user can log onto the local computer-implemented security system to obtain additional information, control the video camera remotely or view video images.

IV. Distinctions between the Cited Art and the Claimed Invention

The cited art has been carefully considered but neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention as described and illustrated herein. A major shortcoming in prior security systems has been the generation of false alarms. Once a sensor is triggered and an alert transmitted to a remotely located monitoring station, personnel at the monitoring station must determine whether the alert is indicative of an actual emergency or a simple false alarm. Oftentimes, it would be impossible for the personnel at the monitoring station to make such a determination and, as a result, emergency responders were frequently dispatched in response to a false alarm. Increasingly sophisticated alarm systems have since been developed to address this shortcoming in prior security systems. Most commonly, the security system is configured to include a video camera which may be viewed from a remote location. The video camera enabled the premises to be monitored

remotely, thereby providing additional information which could be used to determine whether an actual emergency exists.

However, the use of video cameras capable of monitoring a premises from a remote location raised serious privacy concerns. Applicants' invention seeks to address a number of the privacy issues raised by the use of sophisticated security systems by limiting the flow of information to a remote location where the information would be used to determine if an actual emergency has occurred. For example, various ones of the claims recite that the flow of video data from the monitored premises to the monitoring station is limited to those situations when an alert condition has been detected. In other claims, the ability of the monitoring station to access additional types of video data, for example, pre-alarm or non-alarm related video data, acquired at the premises and/or the ability of the monitoring station to issue commands, for example, commands that would enable the monitoring station to control operation of the video cameras, have been limited to pre-determined time periods after receipt of potential alarm condition data. In still other claims, an alarm history for the premises is compiled and transmitted to the monitoring station. Finally, in still yet other claims, additional information regarding the customer is only transmitted to the monitoring station upon detection of potential alarm condition data.


V. Conclusions

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 71 and 73-74, as above amended, as well as newly added Claims 82-100 are patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 54, 59-67 and 70-81 and the allowance of Claims 71, 73-74 and 82-100.

This application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt Notice to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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